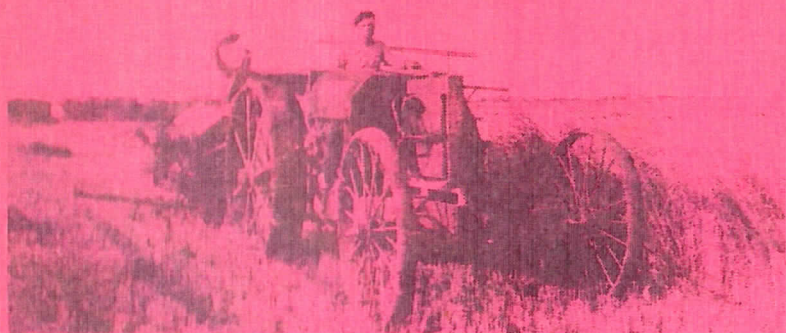


# IN THE BEGINNING



Published Quarterly  
Woodson County Historical Society  
Yates Center, Kansas  
**Vol 9 - No. 35**

## IN THE BEGINNING

Vol. 9 - No. 35

July, 1976

*Lester A. Harding*

### Editor's Notes —

The cover picture on the last issue of In The Beginning, brought out quite a few comments about Leslie Stockebrand and that tall bale of hay, even around this "Hay Capital of The World." Making a long 'splice' bale was not too unusual back in the real hay baling days.

\* \* \* \* \*

Our cover picture this issue shows the old and new of around 50 years ago. It is harvest time with the old reaper or grain binder of horse drawn vintage being pulled by one of the first tractors. It is believed that this tractor was an International. Note the radiator that is placed sideways.

The driver of the tractor was Gaylord G. Simpson and his brother-in-law Harold Carter on the binder. We believe that the wheat being harvested is on the Simpson farm seven miles north and a half mile west of Yates Center.

\* \* \* \* \*

Woodson County has been declared as an Official National Bicentennial Community and the Board of County Commissioners has appointed a committee to plan for the celebration.

One of the projects that has been discussed by this committee is the moving of the old log cabin known as the Daniels cabin on Big Sandy Creek, now owned by J. Richard Pringle, to a site in Yates Center. Permission has been asked for and has been granted by the Woodson County Historical Society for the cabin to be placed on property belonging to the Historical Society just to the west of the Museum. Preliminary plans are being made by this committee for this project.

Ted Roller has been named as the Chairman of the Bicentennial Committee for Woodson County. Donations for the expense of getting this log cabin removed are being asked for. If approved Federal funds will be available.

IN THE BEGINNING

Published Quarterly By

Woodson County Historical Society

Yates Center, Kansas

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WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Organized March, 1965

The first group to tour the Woodson County Historical Museum, were six ladies from an Anderson County Home Demonstration Unit from Kincaid. They visited the Museum on Friday morning, April 30.

\* \* \* \* \*

*In Memoriam*

Samuel S. Wyble 83 March 12, 1976

Mr. Wyble was a charter member of the Woodson County Historical Society and was a faithful worker around the Museum for quite some time before his health failed.

\* \* \* \* \*

Evie (Mrs. Charles) Hibbard 91 March 21, 1976

Mrs. Hibbard had lived in the Toronto area for many years. She was a Charter member of this Society and was faithful in attending while her health permitted.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Woodson County Historical Society held their regular dinner meeting at the Woodson House (formerly the Woodson Hotel), Tuesday evening, May 25, 1976, with 44 members and 6 visitors present. A short Memorial service was held for six members that had passed away since last Memorial Day. These were: Elsie Simpson, Marcella Redfearn, Thomas Brodman, Erma Robertson, Samuel S. Wyble and Mrs. Evie Hibbard.

\* \* \* \* \*

Also guests at this meeting were Miss Sheila Hamman, the reigning Miss Woodson County Hay Queen, and her Chaperon, Mrs. Judy Lawrence. Miss Hamman gave a short resume of her year's reign as Queen, and her looking forward to the Miss Kansas Pageant at Pratt in July.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Memorial Program was carried out by Avis Irland, Marie Ross and Lettie Streator.

The next meeting of the Historical Society will be the annual July picnic to be held at the City Reservoir.

\* \* \* \* \*

A group of the Humanities class of the Yates Center Elementary School, with nine pupils and their teacher toured the Museum May 25.

A group of Boy Scouts had toured there May 13.

\* \* \* \* \*

*Join and Support the  
Woodson County Historical Society*

Life Membership \$25.00

Regular Membership \$2.00 a year

### THE KIMBELL FAMILY —

Richard Kimbell was a native of Oxfordshire, England, where he was born April 19, 1848. He grew up on his father's farm and acquired a good English education. Around 1873, Richard Kimbell married Harriet Louise Hartley.

Later in the year Richard Kimbell and his bride sailed on a westbound vessel from Liverpool, for America. They landed in New York. Making their way to Kane County, Ill., where he engaged in farming. Here their oldest son Edward Richard was born. In 1877, Mr. Kimbell came on a prospecting tour of Kansas. He liked what he saw and in 1878, moved with his family to Woodson County, locating in Liberty township where he rented for 13 years. He then purchased a farm —the south half of section 32, Twp. 24, R. 15. He continued farming and stock raising until 1900 when they moved to Yates Center. Here he carried on a business of breeding and raising fine horses.

Richard and Harriet Kimbell were the parents of four children, Edward R., Harry H., Caroline E. and Frances L.



**The Richard Kimbell Family: BACK ROW: Caroline E., Harry H., Edward R. Sitting: The mother Harriet Louise, Frances Louise, and the father Richard.**

Harry Kimbell married Inez Askew.  
Caroline married Carl Reynolds.  
Frances married Frank Hogueland.

Edward R. Kimbell was the oldest of his family, but we have want to tell of his family. Ed, as he was more familiarly known was born at Aurora, Illinois. The raising of horses and cattle were a large part of his growing up and later he became a large handler of cattle for commercial pasturing of cattle in the west part of Woodson County.

In 1897 Ed Kimbell was married to Barbara Louise Smith, Barbara who was most always went by the name of Lulu, was born in London, Canada, in 1875. When she was quite a small child her mother passed away, leaving the father, Albert Smith to care for the several children. They left Canada and went to England to live for awhile. Returning to the United States they migrated to Woodson County. Here they settled on the Van Horn Ranch in the northwest part of the county. This makes us wonder if there was some connection to the name Van Horn, as George Van Horn came here from England in 1873 and established this ranch and built it on the plan of an English Estate. Smith worked for Van Horn.

After a few years here, Albert Smith bought an 80 acres about a half mile to the north of where the Kimbell Ranch house is now. This 80 acres is a part of the present Kimbell Ranch. Lulu Smith taught school for a while before her marriage.

Edward and Barbara (Lulu) were the parents of four sons. For many years the Kimbell family lived in the Keck vicinity. The small town of Keck was just across the road from the present Kimbell Ranch headquarters. The four were Richard and Lewis, twins, Kenneth Albert and Harry Edward.

Around 1900, Ed Kimbell started leasing pasture land in the western part of Woodson Co. and bringing cattle in to graze and fatten on these bluestem hills. In some of the years following Ed teamed up with Asa Miller in the handling of hundreds and into thousands of cattle each year.

While Mr. and Mrs. Ed R. Kimbell lived to Yates Center at different times, Mr. Kimbell continued to handle the large amounts of Cattle. There are many stories to be told about the Kimbell Ranch as the tradition has been carried on through the years, but for this time we will mention more about the families. As mentioned there were four sons.

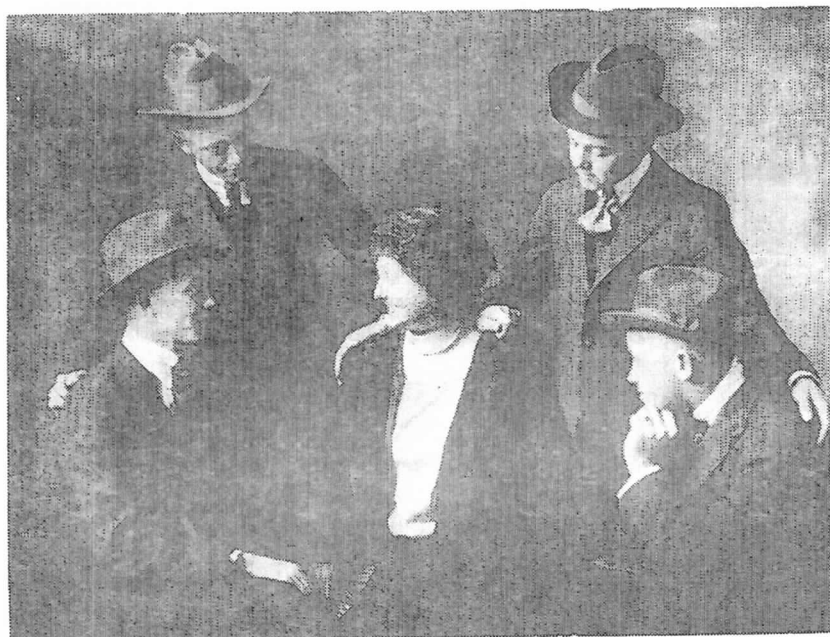
Richard married Dorothy Fisher. They were parents of Judith Lynn, Joe Edward and Richard Zackery.

Judith married Robert Manske. Joe Edward married Marcia Newland. Richard Zackery died when quite small.

Lewis Kimbell married Thelma Tydeman. They had no children.

Harry E. Kimbell married Jean Gwyn. They were parents of two children, Mary Gwyn and Charles.

Kenneth A. married Ruth Marshall. They were parents of two children, Kenneth Edward Charles Kimbell, the first letter of each name spelled out the name Keck, his nickname, and Barbara.



**This unusual picture shows the four Kimbell brothers with their mother, in their younger days. Standing are Richard and Lewis. Sitting are Kenneth and Harry E.**

The story of the Kimbell Ranch will appear in a later issue of In The Beginning as it is a story by itself.



## THE VERDIGRIS VALLEY —

The part of the Verdigris Valley that we will tell about will be not only the part that crossed Woodson County, but to the south a couple of miles into Wilson County that at one time belonged to Woodson County. We would also go on up the valley into Greenwood County a short ways. At the present time there is very little of the Verdigris River left in this county as the Toronto Reservoir covers most of the farm ground and many homes that was in that area.

The Little Osage Indians called this river Wa-Ce-Ton-Xo-E, which has been translated to mean "Gray-green-bark-waters." It seems to be the bark of the sycamore tree to which they referred. The French used only the first two words of the name, Vert y gris, "Green and gray", from which they made the name Verdigris. The Osages used the "blue colored mud" from the banks of the Verdigris to paint their apparel and themselves. To them the blue clay was a sacred color and they also used the clay to color the faces of their dead. The name Verdigris is Indian in origin, French by translation and English in pronunciation.

It is possible that some of the early French traders traveled up this river, but we have no knowledge of it. The first white men we find to cross the headwaters of Verdigris is Lieut. Zebulan Pike and his party that crossed the headwaters in 1806. Pike's Journal recorded that "10th September, Wednesday" - Marched early. Struck and passed the divide between the Grand (Neosho) river and the Verdigris river. Stopped for breakfast on a small stream of the latter; after which we marched and encamped on the fourth small stream. Killed one elk, one deer. Distance 21 miles. (Pike and party had camped the night before on Eagle Creek about on the Coffey-Lyon county line.)

Back to the part of the Verdigris that we will tell more about, we find the first settler listed in that area was David Cooper, who came there in 1856. However we know very little about David Cooper or just where he settled in the valley. David Cooper was 57 years old, his wife Nancy, 46, and a son Jacob was 14, when the family arrived in Woodson County, from a long journey from North Carolina. We may find out more about this family before we get this series finished along the Verdigris.

The second meeting of the Board of County Supervisors at Neosho Falls, was held on August 17, 1858, (These supervisors had all been appointed as there had been no election in the county.), and proceeded to lay off Woodson County into five townships, Neosho Falls, Liberty, Owl Creek, Belmont and Verdigris. The Verdigris township started at along the 5th Standard Parallel, about a mile and

half north of Toronto and a half west, thence east five miles, thence south three miles, thence east three miles, south three miles and east six miles, thence south two miles, taking in what is now the town of Buffalo, then west 14 miles to the Greenwood county line and north to place of beginning. This was Verdigris township, Kansas Territory, in August, 1858.

A man we read quite a lot about in the early days of Verdigris is Lewis C. Thompson. Thompsons original homestead was in the southeast quarter of Sec. 24, Twp. 26, R. 13. This land is now mostly under water of the Toronto Reservoir as is the majority of the homes we will tell about as the early settlers were mostly in or along the edge of the valley.

At the first meeting of the Board of Supervisors on May 22, 1858, it was "Moved that this board act on a petition calling for a county road running from the Verdigris River to Neosho Falls and thence to the county line. B.F. Goss, Neosho Falls; N.J. Lowe, Belmont and Lewis Thompson were appointed to lay out said road."

At the next meeting of the Supervisors, in which they layed out the townships, the Board recinded all previous proceedings concerning the laying out of the county road from Verdigris to Neosho Falls.

At the third meeting of the Board of Supervisors, which was held at the town of Belmont, October 12, 1858, a new board was organized by electing Lewis C. Thompson, John M. Campbell and R. Pearsoll. While the board before them recinded the road that was surveyed, this Board allowed the bills for the services as road surveyers, to Thomas Carlisle, J.W. Lowe and Lewis C. Thompson. J.W. Lowe evidently took the place of his brother N.J. Lowe and Carlisle took the place of B.F. Goss.

It would seem at this stage in the counties history that a fued was brewing as to a place for the county officers to meet. With Verdigris and Belmont trying for the southwest part of the county and Neosho Falls for that area. Another meeting was held at Belmont with one from the northeast part and then two meetings were held at Neosho Falls with no one from the other corner of the county. No quorum were present at these three meetings held in winter of 1858. No more meetings were held until April 5, 1859 at Neosho Falls.

The name of Lewis C. Thompson appeared for the last time with the Board of Supervisors on Nov. 11, 1859, when the Board met to canvass the votes at the first general election of Woodson County.

As mentioned the homestead of Lewis C. Thompson was in the river bottom in Section 24. He also accumulated land up over the bluff to the east.



L.C. Thompson was a native of Indiana, his wife Mary, coming from Virginia. He was 26 and she was around 20 years old when they arrived here in 1857. A daughter Elmira, was a small girl of around one year old when coming to Verdigris. Just how long they were on their journey by team and wagon we do not know, but Elmira was born in Missouri. Another daughter was born in the Verdigris area in 1860. She was given the name of Felithia.

Sometime in 1859 or 1860, a lone man came to the Verdigris by horseback. His name was John N. Walkup, and was also from Indiana. Whether a friend or not of Thompson, John Walkup purchased some land joining on the south west corner of Thompsons. Walkup purchased his land from Elizebeth Wilhite, of whom we would like to tell about later. The land Walkup bought was in the bend of the Verdigris River, and all land in the south east quarter of section 24, township 26, range 13, south of the river. Later he purchased another 40 acres adjoining. Part of this land was a high bluff and is now called Duck Island that is the only island of the Toronto Reservoir. The rest of Walkup's land is now under water. He purchased this tract of land April 22, 1861. It was transacted before Wallace D. McCune, Justice of Peace of Verdigris.

\* \* \* \* \*

The area that we have been referring to as Verdigris seemed to be rather a settlement, by the time the Civil War came along the area seemed to be rather thickly settled.

Company G, Ninth Regiment, Kansas Volunteer Calvary was organized at Humboldt. Some of the enlistments from Humboldt started in September, 1861. On October 15, 1861, there were 29 men and boys who gave their address as Verdigris, Woodson Co., evidently rode in a group and enlisted in Company G on that same day. Lewis C. Thompson was commissioned as First Lieutenant, and John N. Walkup as 2nd Lieut., both on January 2, 1862.

Others going from Verdigris besides the two above were Henry B. Hall, George Phillips, Jr., John Stansbury, 47, and his four sons S.M., Wm., Joseph and J.W. Their ages ranged from 26 to 17; Michael Pentusfe, Jacob Pentusfe, Marion Reeves, James R. Rowe, Robert Williams, Nelson Wilder, Thomas A. Rogers, Alfred Craig, Geo. W. Craig, Wm. Craig, Christian Smentz, Wm. H. Michael, Henry Amsden, John Hase, Henry B. Kalb, Elias H. Kalb, Wallace D. McCune, Hen(ry) McCune, H.C. McFarland, H.F. McFarland. More later.

## MISS LUCY ELLIS — PIONEER SCHOOL TEACHER

Lucy Ellis came to Kansas and Woodson County in 1869, with her parents, two brothers, and four sisters. Her father filed claim for a homestead which he homesteaded for five years and then received full ownership. At the time they built on the homestead there were no houses or building visible in three directions, although to the south some of their relatives who had proceeded them to Kansas, had staked out claims.

Lucy Ellis was born, September 15, 1851, near Shelbyville, Kentucky. Her parents were Joseph and Nehushta Ellis. Lucy was 100 years, one month and a few days when she passed away, November 8, 1951.

The Ellis family moved from Kentucky to Indiana, where Miss Lucy taught a subscription school, at the age of seventeen years. When her teaching began in Kansas, there were no high schools, but she attended Emporia Normal School and Kansas University in order to help her pupils.

Miss Lucy taught in the various rural schools of the county as well as several years in the Yates Center city schools, Spring Hill, and at the Industrial school for girls at Beloit. The young pioneer teacher first rode a grey pony as she taught away from her home school, going across the prairies instead of following section lines. There were practically no roads. Later Miss Lucy became the proud owner of a white pony, complete with a tan bridle and saddle with a red plush seat. The young pioneer teacher was thrilled at the idea of owning this beautiful pony and spent much time brushing and combing its mane, even braiding it at night and combing it out the next morning.

In November, 1896, Miss Lucy was elected to the office of Superintendent of Public Instruction of Woodson County, and served one term in that capacity.

Lucy Ellis was proud that her family was connected with the Lees of Virginia, and also proud to be an old-line Democrat. Having been ten years old when the Civil War started she rather 'grew up' with that war. In 1898 and later, former students of Miss Lucy were in the Spanish-American War. When World War I came along, more former students went into the army. Although her teaching days were over when World War II started, she watched with interest as the boys of the county went to war.

This Ellis family was an influence in the organization of the Fairview school, Dist. No. 42, located about 1 1/2 miles west and two north of Vernon. Living to the age of 100 years Lucy Ellis was the last of her family of nine.

## JAMES G. COX FAMILY —

James Galloway Cox was a native of New York state and as a young man started west. In Indiana he stopped at a town named Martinsville. Here he met a young lady by the name of Eveline Butler. They were married and moved on to Wisconsin, where a daughter was born to them at Weyauwega, Wis., Sept. 23, 1856. She was also given the name of Eveline Sylvia, who in later years was married to Walter Depew.

During the next several years the Cox family moved around considerably, in other parts of Wisconsin and then into Iowa. James Cox worked in different sawmills and also followed the trade of a blacksmith.

In the meantime Mrs. Cox had developed consumption, the dreaded disease of that time. Thinking the milder weather of Kansas would be beneficial to her health, they decided to move. A sister of Mrs. Cox's, Hannah Butler Puffer (Mrs. Charles Puffer) lived at Burlington, in Coffey County.

Arriving in Burlington, James Cox erected a small house on West Neosho St., and also another structure in which he operated a gun shop, which was known as Jim Cox's Gunshop. They had arrived in Burlington in April, 1868. Less than two years later Mrs. Cox passed away. This was on February 5, 1870. The day of her burial marked the first M. K. and T. train into Burlington.

Mr. Cox and daughter Eveline lived above the gunshop until his marriage to Miss Mary Jane Caven, who with her brothers and sister had came from Ohio and purchased quite an acreage along Big Creek. This was in 1871. About two years later Mr. and Mrs. Cox and Eveline moved into unfinished frame house along Big Creek. Here Cox carried on his gun repairing and blacksmithing. Cox also entered into a partnership with Warren Crandall, in operating a sawmill along Big Creek. Later they moved back to Burlington.

On September 29, 1875, Eveline Cox was married to J. Walter Depew, and moved to the Butler Ranch on Owl Creek in Woodson County. After the starting of the town of Yates Center, Walter Depew and wife moved into the little town and operated a grocery store.

It was about this time that James Cox and wife also moved to the new county seat of Yates Center, where he again set up a gun shop, possible the first gun shop in the new town.

A part of this story was told in the article about Mr. and Mrs. J. Walter Depew in Volume 6, No. 21, January 1973. Also most of this story was obtained from the papers of Mrs. Eveline Depew, written when she was 78 years old.



James G. Cox, about the time that he operated the Cox Gun Shop, about where the new State Exchange Bank building is now. This was probably in the latter 1870's and early 1880's.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### OVERLAND MAIL —

Richard H. Trueblood, a well known and long time editor of the Yates Center News was also one of the early star route carriers. In one issue of the News he reminisced about these events. Trueblood carried the mail from the rural post offices of Byron, Finney and Coloma, (all north of Yates Center) to Yates Center, three times a week. He carried the mail by horseback, with a fine roan pony. He went three days a week, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. There was nothing but dirt roads in those days that was all mud in times of rain. In the winter there were some terrible blizzards along in the late 70's and early 80's. Snow, sleet, bitter cold north winds that cut ones face, but they become hardened to it as it was all in a days work.

## WORST FLOOD IN HISTORY HITS NEOSHO FALLS —

On July 13, 1951, just 25 years ago, the people of Neosho Falls suffered one of the biggest floods in the history of the Neosho Valley. Only one house in the town escaped damage, while other houses had from two to nine feet of water that left mud and debris over everything.

The people of Neosho Falls had been warned that the Neosho River was on the rise and that it would probably be two or three feet above flood level. Many of the people of the town had weathered more than that were not alarmed as they calculated a flood of that kind would not do much damage to the residences. But instead of the rise they were alerted to a rise of nine feet hit the sleeping town about 2:30 Thursday morning. Before the sleepy folks fully realized what was going on water was creeping around their houses and then into the houses.

Lon Wright, an old resident of the town told us that he was out in his yard watching the water as it crept through the town. When he saw it get to the edge of his porch he knew it was time to go as no flood water had ever come to there before.

An alarm was sent out and volunteer aid from Yates Center went into action. Around fifteen boats, privately owned came to the rescue of the people of the town, and the rescue and evacuation continued throughout Thursday night. Many of the evacuees were taken to Piqua and a large number to Yates Center.

Headquarters were set up in the City Hall in Yates Center and all evacuees were registered and assigned to homes of those who had volunteered to give food and shelter.

Most of the residents of Neosho Falls went out of the town that night with a very few belongings. The Red Cross immediately went into action. R. Munn a field director of the National Red Cross came. He first set up his headquarters in the City Hall in Yates Center and later in the Neosho Falls High School. The writer through his work with the Woodson County A.S.C. office worked with Mr. Munn to a certain degree in the rehabilitation of some of the farmers along the Neosho and Verdigris rivers.

While the rescue work was going on in the Falls that Thursday night and the next day people had gone to the upstairs wherever possible and some to the roof tops. Many had made their way to the high school building and more were taken there.

There was only one house in Neosho Falls that the floodwaters failed to get into. That was the home of John Sullivan, along the ridge in the west part of town.

All other houses in the town averaged from one to three inches of silt and mud over the floor when the water receded, making a tremendous cleaning up process. The murky water went through every business place along Main Street, reaching a depth of seven feet in some of them. Five homes were destroyed or washed down stream. Many other homes were twisted and moved off their foundation.

The day after the flood waters hit the town and surrounding territory was known as "Black Friday," July 13, 1951.

Quite a number of the residents of the Falls made their way to the high school that seemed to be the most logical place to withstand the swirling flood waters. Several drove cars and trucks up to the building only to have the water almost completely cover them as it rose into the school covering the ground floor and half way to the first floor.

Some cows and a few chickens were rescued and taken into the school building and kept on the stage of the auditorium. Water at its highest covered the floor of the stage. A horse was seen swimming and drifted by the building. An attempt was made to get it but failed.

A room in the southwest corner of the third floor was the 'dog room', where all of the dogs were kept. There were fifteen dogs in the room.

Most all of the roads into the town were closed to keep out the curious, but on Monday July 16 the writer took a back road into the town. Going to the school building we met Ira Cooper who at one time lived near Vernon and was living in the Falls when the flood hit. He had been living in the school building and offered to take me through the rooms that at that time were mostly vacated.

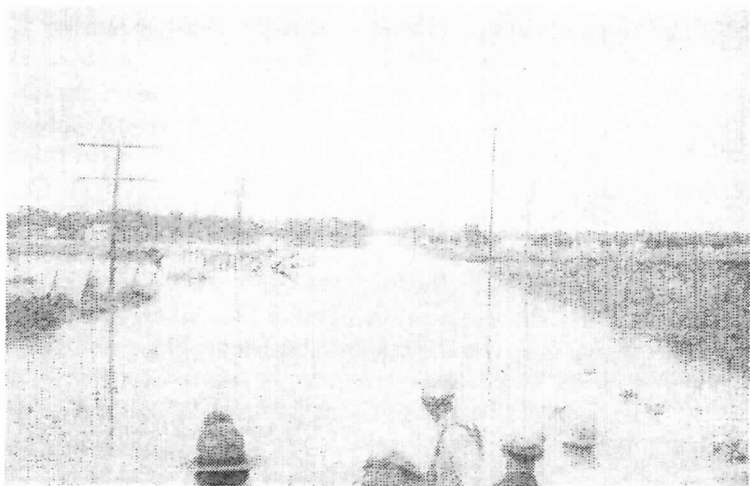
There had been 65 people, 15 dogs, two cows and several chickens housed up there for 3 or 4 days. Dr. A. C. Dingus, county health officer had went from Yates Center to the flood area. Someone rowed him in to the school building. He declared the place unsanitary and unfit for any human to live in. However, by this time every one had gone to the home of friends or relatives. Some had gone back to their own homes to start the cleanup.

On one of our trips into the flooded town with Louis Ross of the Soil Conservation Service, to check on the business places that had been doing business with farmers, Lon Wright who had been operating a feed and seed store wanted us to do some surveying at the old power plant, now the water plant for the Rural Water District. Mr. Wright wanted to compare the water line as to other floods at Neosho Falls.



At the northwest corner of the old Congregational Church used during later years as the City Hall in Neosho Falls, on the east side of Main Street is a government survey marker that states that spot is 972.4 feet above sea level, but on Thursday, July 12, 1951, the people at the Falls evidently thought that the town and surrounding country had dropped below the seas, as the water at that point was just 11 feet deep on the ground level at this marker, making the water close to 11 feet deep flowing down Main Street.

The flood stage of the Neosho River at the Falls was considered to be 21.6 feet. When the river reaches the top of the cement abutment on the south side of the power plant the water is spreading over the lowlands. The 1948 flood was 9.6 feet above the flood stage, while the 1951 flood reached 38.1 feet or 16.5 feet above flood level.



This picture was taken in the afternoon of Friday, the 13th. The scene was just south of the corner two miles south of Neosho Falls. The arrow near the corner shows a boat with two men in it headed for the flooded town. George Wille of Piqua was one of them. After awhile they came back, saying every thing was very quiet in town. They went to the Wilson George home in northwest part of town, where they found a cow on the porch. They stopped to milk her and gave her some feed.

## THE JOHN HOLMQUEST FAMILY —

In the June 28, 1876 issue of the Woodson County Post an article appeared giving the names of out of state people that were staying at the Freer House in Neosho Falls. John Freer who had recently opened up the Freer House or hotel had given the information.

Among the out of state guests staying there was the name of John Holmquest of Maine. Mr. Holmquest had evidently arrived prior to this date as it was on June 28, 1876 that he had taken out his naturalization papers to become an American citizen. He had to go to the county seat at Defiance to get his application for citizenship.

John Holmquest was born at Stockholm, Sweden, September 26, 1848. In April, 1872, when he was 23 years old he left his native country and came to America. He went to Bangor, Maine where he worked in a logging camp along the Penobscot River. After three or four years there he came on west and landed in Neosho Falls sometime the latter part of June, 1876.

John evidently went to Defiance where he found work. Defiance lost the county seat and courthouse in the final county seat election in September, 1876. On February 10, 1878, John Holmquest and Christine Marie Tollner were married at home of bride's parents by C. Emmel, Pastor Evangelical Assoc. Christina was born at Brooklyn, New York, December 11, 1859. Her parents John and Mary Tollner were natives of Germany and came to America, sometime in the 1850's, and settled in Brooklyn for several years. While living in Brooklyn a Diphtheria epidemic hit there and two small girls and a boy of the Tollner's died of the disease. The grief-stricken parents decided to leave Brooklyn and come west.

John H. Bayers and family had come to Woodson County in 1865. He was a relative of John Tollner, and urged Tollner to come to Woodson County. Bayer had a sister Anna who had married Conrad Herder in Brooklyn, but later moved to the state of Connecticut, also decided to come to Kansas at the same time as the Tollner's did.

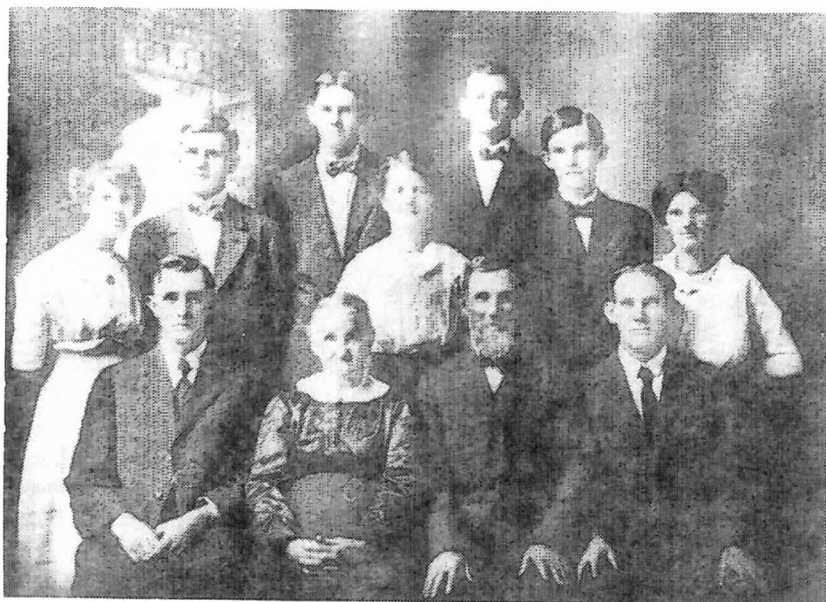
Mr. and Mrs. John Tollner and nine-year old Christine, Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Herder, Henry, John, Anna and Edward all came together on the same train to Lawrence, Kansas, where John Bayer met them and brought them to his farm along Owl Creek in Woodson County, with ox team and wagon.

After farming for five years in the Defiance vicinity both the Tollners and Holmquests decided to purchase a farm. The farm bought was the W. B. Stines farm on upper Turkey Creek. Tollner bought the north 80 acres with the creek running through it, while the Holmquests bought the south 80 acres. It was told that each of these 80 acres had a cabin on it. However both of these families

moved into the house that W. B. Stines had build in the center of this 160 acres. In time Mr. Holmquest obtained the full quarter section in the north half of section 15, Twp. 24, R. 14.

It was on March 1, 1885, when Mr. and Mrs. John Holmquest loaded their household goods and three small sons, Henry, Will and Fred, into a new narrow-tired Studebaker wagon. They were headed for their new home on Turkey Creek. Like many other early day settlers, Mr. and Mrs. Holmquest raised a large family, six boys, Henry, Will, Fred, Theodore, Charley and Walter; three girls, Mary, Anna and Gussia. Twins Clara and Clarence dying in infancy.

Mr. and Mrs. Holmquest were among the first members of the first Turkey Creek Sunday School as it was organized in the Askren School Dist. No. 2, school house, in 1885, by Rev. Peter Schuman, of the Evangelical Association. This was about six years before the church was built.



**The Holmquest family — Seated are, Henry, the mother Christine, father, John Holmquest, Will. Standing are, left to right, Gussia, Charley, Theodore, Mary, Fred, Walter and Anna.**

\* \* \* \* \*

As our readers who knew Uncle Johnny Holmquest, as he was known, will remember him as a small man, short in stature and not heavy built, yet he raised six sons all of them being large men and around six foot tall.

Taking up the Holmquest children, Henry, Will, Charley and Anna never married.

Fred was married to Daisy Galemore. Their children were Clara Bell, who married Dick Butler; Melvin who married Norma Rife and Flossie who married Dick Winterscheid.

Mary married Charles Weaver. They had no children.

Theodore married Irene Stahl. Their children were Lila Mae, who married Paul Hoag; Howard who married Wanda Bohart.

Walter married Elsie Mark. They had no children.

Gussia married John Schindler. They have no children.

\* \* \* \* \*

Mr. and Mrs. John Holmquest celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1928.

They had moved to Yates Center in 1919. Here Uncle Johnny was a familiar figure as he drove his blazed-face mare Fay, hitched to a one-horse wagon around town.

Mr. and Mrs. Holmquest are buried in the Turkey Creek Cemetery, as are ten of their eleven children. Living is Gussia who is the youngest of the family. While we have been referring to her as Gussia her real name is Augusta.

Down through the years the Holmquest home on Turkey Creek was well known. They were a large family and hard workers. When the farm was sold in 1963, it ended 78 years of ownership for the Holmquest family of this farm.

**(Editor's note** — As a boy we enjoyed the hospitality of this home as we would go home with Walter from school and in later years when we would help there in threshing and silo filling. We remember Mr. Holmquest, especially his quaint Swedish talk.)

The large house is gone and while we had spent many days and some nights there, what we seem to remember best in the later years was that long dining table, that during threshing time was always loaded down with food. Anna Holmquest was the cook. Perhaps nothing fancy, but good solid food that stayed with you for a day's work.

Just to the east of the old house was the "Smoke house." Here the fresh butchered pork and beef was smoked to cure it. We can remember that fresh home-made sausage stuffed in the fresh "casings."

Back many years ago the Holmquests like other farm families kept some greyhounds, that at time were used mostly for chasing jackrabbits - the sport of that day. The two hounds Walter and I used to chase the long-eared rabbits with were Jeff and Sam.

## FINNEY SCHOOL DISTRICT 49 —

As mentioned in a previous article, Section 6, Twp. 24, R. 15 was settled with nine different homesteaders filing claims on it in 1870-71. To the east and south along Turkey Creek there were quite a few settlers. Part of the children went to the Askren, Dist. No. 2, to the south and west while others went to the Byron, Dist. No. 1, to the east and north. But the need grew for a school closer to the vicinity.

The nine homesteaders in Section 6 were W. B. Butler, James William, Jeremiah McGee, Pleasant Ozburn, Karl Donnerberg, Mark Hanna, Henry Harris, George W. Naylor and John Frichard. Frichard was a bachelor and his claim was in the center of the section, where he built the "2x4" frame cabin that was required by law. By 1875 Frichard had abandoned his cabin and claim and left the country.

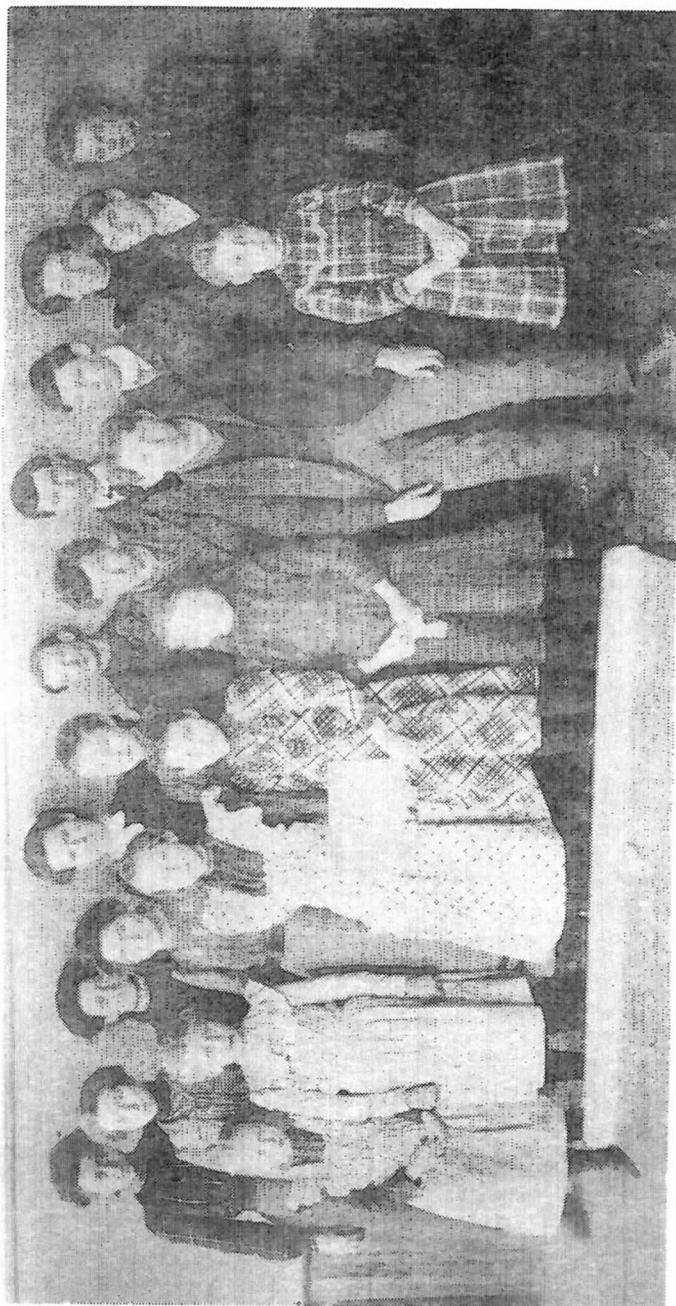
School District No. 49 was organized in 1873, but the first school term was not held until the fall of 1875 in the abandoned claim cabin of John Frichard. Eva McNally was the first teacher. She was a young girl and had quite a lot of difficulty as there was a large attendance and several large boys. Some of the scholars this first term were, George and Charlie Butler, Charles, Michael, Thomas, Jordon (Pat), Jacob, and Martha Williams; Marty and Vashtie McGee, Dora Arnold, Fred, Lizzie and George Brenner, Charlie, August, Gus and Willie Weide, Laura and Minnie Harris, Charlie and Louise Donnerberg, Grant and Belle Burnett, Frank Rogers, Silas Johnson and perhaps others. Because of the trouble she was having in the school, Eva McNally gave up the school and left. Clara Fergus finished teaching the spring term.

A new schoolhouse was built in the summer of 1876, and was located in the northeast corner of Sec. 7, Twp. 24, R. 15. This would be seven miles north and three west of Yates Center. This was just one hundred years ago and the town of Yates Center was just being declared the County Seat of Woodson County.

The first teacher in the "new schoolhouse" was Miss Lucy Ellis. A short story of Miss Ellis will also appear in this issue of "In The Beginning". E. W. "Wilse" Naylor a well known resident of Yates Center, also taught a term in the new school in 1876.

This small schoolhouse lasted around 25 years, until another "new schoolhouse" was built in the same location.

District No. 49 was not called Finney until quite a few years after its organization. It derived its name from Hon. David W. Finney of Neosho Falls, who served in the Kansas Legislature and became Lieut. Governor of Kansas. At that time he was instrumental in trying to get a railroad through what became the Finney vicinity.



This picture was taken during the first term in the second "new school house" during 1902. Starting in the back row were Mary Mulsow Wells, Grace Peake Keir, Susie Peake the teacher, Harry manifold, Charlie Peake, Minnie Stark, Munro, Lizzie Mulsow Arnold, Center row: Wilda Stark VanHoozer, Elsie Surber Etter, Lillie Allen Goble, Clyde Butler, Louis Peake, Charlie Mulsow, Front row - Nina Mulsow Steele, Hattie Allen Meigs, Erma Mulsow Light, June Peake Culbertson, Minnie Weide Kolb, Cecil Butler, Addie Butler Woods.



The first school board elected was Milton Hanna, Fred L. Arnold and J. M. McGee, all three giving their address as Byron, Kansas.

During the time that the first schoolhouse was built and into after the turn of the century, District No. 49 was quite a community center. They had Sunday School, preaching, literary society and singing school. A Mr. Covert taught the singing school, giving ten lessons for one dollar. These lessons were given at night. We believe that this Mr. Covert was father to the late Harry Covert long-time editor of the Woodson County Post and Yates Center News.

During the school term of 1917-18, the following pupils were enrolled at Finney: Nathan, Carry, Ivan and Ora Macoubrie, Gerald Stewart, Alva Lee and Iva Farrar, Lester and Leota Mulsow, Goldie Steele, Marian and Blanche Mulsow, Thelma and Ruby Manifold, Theodore, Edith, Clifford, Howard and Glen Massey, Stottlar and Helen Arnold, Ethel Wood.

David Powers, John and Faye Jones, Clyde and Ray Metzger, Glen and Ruby Weide, Kenneth and Florence Brock, Gail and Floyd Edwards, Leslie Crumrine, Lucille Manifold, Lester Harding.

The Askren District No. 2, was the writer's home school, but this particular term there were only two scholars to go to Askren so Margaret Miller went to Nikketown and I went to Finney.

Susie Peake was the teacher at Finney this term just mentioned above.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### Teachers of Finney School District #49

In Abandoned Homesteaders Cabin.

1875 - Eva McNally - Clara Fergus.

#### New School

1876 - Lucy Ellis - 1877 - E. W. Naylor

1881 - Lucy Ellis - 1882 - J. A. McLean - 1883 - Silas Naylor

1884 - George Carpenter - 1885 - J. W. Withers - 1886 - Euphrumia Frame - 1887 - M. P. Dutro - 1888 - C. A. Stotts - 1889-90 - Mary Frame - 1892-93 - Minnie Harris - 1894-95 - C. W. Brown - 1896 - Myrtle Harter - 1899-1900 - Nellie Arnold - 1901 - Walter Bales - 1902 - Bert Butler. Last term in that school house.

Teachers in this school house were, 1902, Susie Peake - 1903, Jesse Stocker Manifold - 1904, Dottie Marple - 1905-06, Susie Peake.

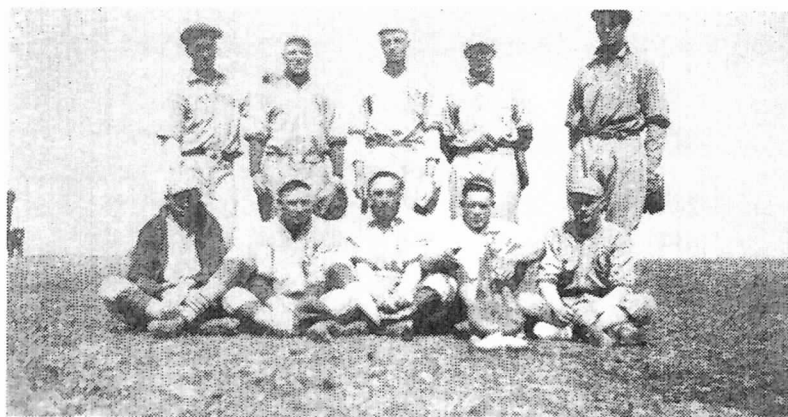
- 1907, Hattie Girard - 1908, Chester Old - 1909, Otto Rayburn - This term was not finished as every pupil contracted the measles - 1910, Mary Mulsow Wells - 1911, Otto Rayburn - 1912, Grace Etter Deakins - 1913, Cecille Davidson - 1914-17, Susie Peake - 1918-19, Lula Briles Cope - 1920-21, Letha Manifold Stockebrand - 1922-23, Mrs. Nellie Manifold - 1926, Laura Smith - 1927, Dorothy Faye Johnson Roberts - 1928-29, Nellie Manifold - 1930-31, Eugene Etter - 1932-33, Irma Tannahill - 1934-35-36, Leota Mulsow - 1937, Nellie Manifold - 1938-39, Elizebeth Steele - 1940-41, Marjorie Cole - 1942, Leota Mulsow - 1943, Mrs. Wilma Scott - 1944-45-46, Mrs. Letha Stockebrand - 1947, Elizebeth Clawson - 1948, Charlene Morrow Hatch - 1949-50-51-52-53, Leota Mulsow - 1954, Betty Marie Covalt - 1955, Shirley Dutro.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### FINNEY SCHOOL REPORT - Nov. 13, 1898 —

Enrollment 43. Pupils neither absent or tardy, Grace Gordon and Bert Butler - Not tardy, Clyde Butler, Cecil Butler, Grace, Maude and Blanche Hutchins - Pupils receiving 90 percent and above in scholarship department, Pearl Stewart Clugston, Roy Stewart, Bert, Clyde and Cecil Butler, Grace Maude and Blanche Hutchins - Grace Gordon Reed - Butler, Mabel Gordon Old. (The Stewarts, Butlers and Hutchins were all cousins.)

\* \* \* \* \*



A Vernon baseball team of around 1923-24 - Standing are - Hoopengardner, Glen Shaw, Hoyle McConnell, Walter Merrill, Charles Lind. Seated are, Clarence Gregerson, Otis Lynn, Harry Gregerson, Vin Adams and Joe McConnell.

## PATRONS OF WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL QUARTERLY

Brown's Western Auto  
 John V. Glades Agency  
 Woodson Co. Co-op  
 Street Abstract Co. Inc.  
 State Exchange Bank  
 Schornick Oil Co.  
 Self Service Grocery  
 Krueger's Variety  
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Beine  
 Hi-Way Food Basket  
 Bill Herman  
 Piqua Farmer's Co-op  
 Gualding Oil Co.  
 Donald E. Ward  
 Morton Equipment Co.  
 Swope & Son Implement Co.  
 Campbell Plumbing & Electric  
 Clyde Hill  
 Cantrell Buick-Pontiac  
 Paul C. Laidlaw  
 Rogers Bros. Garage  
 Charles H. Carpenter  
 Newtex Manufacturing Co.  
 J.C. Schnell  
 W. D. Smith & Son Furniture  
 & Undertaking  
 Superior Building Supply, Inc.  
 Glenn Shaw  
 Pringle Ranch - J. W. & J. Richard  
 W. K. Stockebrand  
 Herring Hardware & Supply

Woody's Cafe  
 Kimbell Ranch - Ed Kimbell  
 Edwin H. Bideau Associate  
 Agencies - Chanute  
 Al's Jewelry  
 First National Bank - Toronto  
 Blackjack Cattle Co.  
 Wilma Mark  
 Yates Center Elevator  
 Jasper's Shopping Spot  
 Bill Taylor - Gen. Agent  
 Woodson Co. Farm Bureau  
 Atkin Clinic  
 Daly Western Supply  
 Pyeatte - Jaynes Ins. Agency  
 Dyer Chevrolet  
 Linde Barber Shop  
 House of Fabrics  
 Milton Wrampe  
 Yates Center News  
 E. E. Light  
 Atkin Rexall Pharmacy  
 Gambles Friendly Store  
 Campbell Funeral Home  
 Mr. & Mrs. Glen Baker  
 Piqua State Bank  
 Wendall McMurray  
 McGinty-Coffman Dept. Store  
 E. Guy Reid  
 J & W Manufacturing Co.  
 Everybody's Grocery